

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A presensitized plate which comprises an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate obtainable by performing a treatment with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and an image recording layer formed thereon containing an infrared absorbent.

2. (currently amended): The support for a lithographic printing presensitized plate according to claim 1, wherein the treatment of the aluminum support with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.

3. (currently amended): A method of preparing a presensitized plate comprising an aluminum support for a lithographic printing plate and an image recording layer comprising the steps of:

performing a treatment on an aluminum support with an aqueous solution containing one or more divalent or multivalent cations except alkaline earth metal at a concentration ranging from 0.0001 mol/L to less than 0.020 mol/L; and

forming an image recording layer containing an infrared absorbent on the treated aluminum support.

4. (currently amended): The method of preparing a ~~support for a lithographic printing~~ presensitized plate according to claim 3, wherein the treatment with the aqueous solution is performed on an aluminum plate which has been subjected to a graining treatment, an anodizing treatment and a hydrophilic treatment in this order.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended): The presensitized plate according to claim-~~5~~ 1, wherein an intermediate layer containing a high-molecular compound having a constituent with an acid group and a constituent with onium group is formed between the support for a lithographic printing plate and the image recording layer.

10. (currently amended): The presensitized plate according to claim-~~6~~ 2, wherein an intermediate layer containing a high-molecular compound having a constituent with an acid group and a constituent with onium group is formed between the support for a lithographic printing plate and the image recording layer.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim-~~5~~ 1 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

14. (currently amended): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim ~~6~~ 2 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (original): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 9 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

18. (original): A method of preparing a lithographic printing plate comprising the steps of:

exposing a presensitized plate according to claim 10 to light; and

developing the exposed presensitized plate using a developer substantially containing no alkali metal silicate to thereby obtain the lithographic printing plate.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3rd group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4th group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5th group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6th group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7th group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8th group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9th group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10th group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11th group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12th group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13th group; Sn and Pb in the 14th group; Sb and Bi in the 15th group; and Te and Po in the 16th group in the periodic table.

22. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 1 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

23. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 2 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3rd group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4th group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5th group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6th group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7th group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8th group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9th group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10th group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11th group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12th group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13th group; Sn and Pb in the 14th group; Sb and Bi in the 15th group; and Te and Po in the 16th group in the periodic table.

24. (new): The presensitized plate according to claim 2 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

25. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3rd group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4th group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5th group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6th group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7th group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8th group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9th group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10th group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11th group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12th group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13th group; Sn and Pb in the 14th group; Sb and Bi in the 15th group; and Te and Po in the 16th group in the periodic table.

26. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 3 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

27. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 4 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3rd group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4th group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5th group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6th group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7th group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8th group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9th group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10th group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11th group; Zn, Cd and Hg in

the 12th group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13th group; Sn and Pb in the 14th group; Sb and Bi in the 15th group; and Te and Po in the 16th group in the periodic table.

28. (new): The method of preparing a presensitized plate according to claim 4 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.

29. (new): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Sc, Y, rare-earth elements (La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu) and actinoids in the 3rd group; Ti, Zr and Hf in the 4th group; V, Nb and Ta in the 5th group; Cr, Mo and W in the 6th group; Mn, Tc and Re in the 7th group; Fe, Ru and Os in the 8th group; Co, Rh and Ir in the 9th group; Ni, Pd and Pt in the 10th group; Cu, Ag and Au in the 11th group; Zn, Cd and Hg in the 12th group; Al, Ga, In and Tl in the 13th group; Sn and Pb in the 14th group; Sb and Bi in the 15th group; and Te and Po in the 16th group in the periodic table.

30. (new): The method of preparing a lithographic printing plate according to claim 13 wherein said one or more divalent or multivalent cations is selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Pd, Cu, Zn and Ce.